

REMARKS

In the above referenced case, claims 233-288 are pending. Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner.

I. The Drawings Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) with respect to claims 240, 254, 268, and 282. These claims have been amended. As amended, these claims are clearly supported by Figure 21. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections.

II. The Specification Objections

The Examiner objected to the Specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claims 240, 254, 268, and 282. These claims have been amended and are now clearly supported by the specification at least at: page 57, last paragraph; and page 89, third paragraph. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections.

III. The Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 269, 271, 274, 283, 285, and 288 for informalities. These claims have been amended to correct the informalities specified by the Examiner. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections.

IV. The 35 U.S.C. §112 Claim Rejections

Claims 236, 250, 265, and 278 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Element [a]s of the respective independent claims (i.e., claims 233, 247, 261, and 275) of claims 236, 250, 265, and 278 have been amended to eliminate the potential confusion noted by the Examiner. Thus, Applicant believes claims 236, 250, 265, and 278 have overcome the 112 rejections.

V. The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 233-234, 236, 239, 241-248, 250, 253, 255-262, 264, 267, 269-276, 278, 281, and 283-288 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Atarashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,172,254 (“ATARASHI”).

A. Claim 233

It is axiomatic that the cited reference in a §102 rejection must disclose every element in the rejected claim. Amended independent claim 233 recites at least the following elements:

[e] [i] combining the altered separate beams of electromagnetic energy of the primary first resolved beam of electromagnetic energy into a first single collinear beam of electromagnetic energy, without previously subcombining any plurality of the altered separate beams of the primary first resolved beam and without substantially changing the altered selected predetermined orientation of the chosen component of the electromagnetic wave field vectors of the plurality of portions of each of the separate beams of electromagnetic energy, and

[ii] combining the altered separate beams of electromagnetic energy of the primary second resolved beam of electromagnetic energy into a second single collinear beam of electromagnetic energy, without previously subcombining any plurality of the altered separate beams of the second resolved beam and without substantially changing the altered selected predetermined orientation of the chosen component of the electromagnetic wave field vectors of the plurality of portions of each of the separate beams of electromagnetic energy; and

The Examiner cited Figure 5 of ATARASHI as anticipating this claim. As will be shown below, Applicant respectfully submits that ATARASHI fails to disclose at least one limitation within elements [e][i] and [e][ii]. Thus, ATARASHI does not anticipate claim 233.

1. ATARASHI Does Not Disclose or Suggest the Steps for Combining the Altered Separate Beams as Recited in Elements [e][i] and [e][ii] of Amended Claim 233

Element [e][i] of amended claim 233 recites the step of combining the altered separate beams of electromagnetic energy of the primary first resolved beam of electromagnetic energy into a first single collinear beam of electromagnetic energy, without previously subcombining any plurality of the altered separate beams of the primary first resolved beam.

In contrast, ATARASHI discloses a system where the blue and green beams of the p-polarized beam are combined first by a first combiner (21GP2), and then the blue and green combined beam is combined with the red beam of the p-polarized beam by a second combiner (21RP).

Similarly, element [e][ii] of amended claim 233 recites the step of combining the altered separate beams of electromagnetic energy of the primary second resolved beam of electromagnetic energy into a second single collinear beam of electromagnetic energy, without previously subcombining any plurality of the altered separate beams of the primary second resolved beam.

ATARASHI discloses a system where the blue and green beams of the s-polarized beam are combined first by a first combiner (21GS2), and then the blue and green combined beam is combined with the red beam of the s-polarized beam by a second combiner (21RS).

Thus, ATARASHI does not disclose or suggest combining all altered separate beams of the first primary beam or of the second primary beam directly as recited by amended claim 233. Rather, ATARASHI involves first creating a subcombination of some of the beams.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that ATARASHI cannot disclose or suggest elements [e][i] and [e][ii] of claim 233. Thus, claim 233 is now in condition for allowance.

B. Independent Claims 247, 261, and 275

Independent claims 247, 261, and 275 have been amended to recite substantially the same limitations as amended claim 233 as discussed above in Section V.A. Based on the foregoing arguments with respect to claim 233, claims 247, 261, 275 should also be in condition for allowance.

C. Dependent Claims 234-246, 248-261, 262-274, and 276-288

Dependent claims 234-246, 248-261, 262-274, and 276-288 are dependent on independent claims 233, 247, 261, and 275, respectively. Based on the foregoing arguments with respect to the independent claims, these dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance.

VI. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

A. Rejections over ATARASHI and SATO

Dependent claims 237-238, 240, 251-252, 254, 265-266, 268, 279-280, and 282 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ATARASHI in view of Sato et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,042,921 (“SATO”).

Based on the foregoing arguments regarding independent claims 233, 247, 261, and 275, Applicant respectfully submits that the §103 rejections are now moot and these dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

B. Rejections over ATARASHI and KONNO

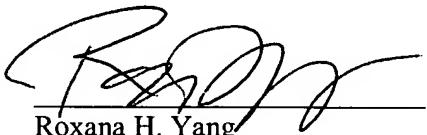
Dependent claims 235, 249, 263, and 277 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ATARASHI in view of Konno, U.S. Patent No. 4,497,015 (“KONNO”).

Based on the foregoing arguments regarding independent claims 233, 247, 261, and 275, Applicant respectfully submits that the §103 rejections are now moot and these dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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